Overview

The white table is set in many mess halls as a symbol for and remembrance to service members fallen, missing, or held captive in the line of duty. Showing solidarity and solemn, it is the table where no one will ever sit. This story helps bring awareness to the sacrifice of soldiers through the ritual of remembrance.

Instructions

Without talking to the children, put a white tablecloth on a round table, place a plate on the table along with a lemon slice and grains of salt on the plate. Also place on the table a black napkin, an empty glass turned upside down, a white candle in a holder, and a red rose in a vase with a red ribbon tied on. Finally place a chair leaning against the table.

Read the book.

Vocabulary

**Honor**: to show great respect

**Fate**: final outcome

**Sorrow**: a deep sadness or regret especially for the loss of someone or something loved

Comprehension Questions

- Why did the family set up this small white table?
- What effect did it have on their Uncle John?
- How do you think setting the white table would affect Veterans that we know today?
- What is a hero to you?

Materials

- “America’s White Table” book
- Round table
- White table cloth
- Chair
- Red rose and vase
- Black napkin
- Salt
- Lemon slice
- Drinking glass
- White candle in holder
- Dry erase board
- Dry erase marker
- Pencils
- Crayons
- White construction paper
- HERO acrostic poem template
- Table labels
Activity

• Younger students: after discussing what a hero is, have them draw a picture of their hero (whether real person or fictional).

• Older students: write acrostic HERO poems.

Display activity in community center hallways on their bulletin boards.
HERO: Illustrated Acrostic Poem

Draw a picture of a hero, then write an acrostic poem about them. Start each line of your poem with the letter on that line.

H
E
R
O